

2008 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee of the National Urban Search and Rescue System

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Homeland Security

2. Fiscal Year

2008

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Advisory Committee of the National Urban Search and Rescue System

3b. GSA Committee No.

747

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

04/26/2006

6. Expected Renewal Date

04/26/2008

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

Yes

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

09/30/2008

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Terminate

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority

13. Effective Date

12/04/1991

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

17b. Closed

0

17c. Partially Closed

0

Other Activities

0

17d. Total

0

Current FY Next FY

18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff

\$0.00 \$0.00

18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants

\$0.00 \$0.00

18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff

\$0.00 \$0.00

18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants

\$0.00 \$0.00

18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Committee provides advice and recommendations to the Agency regarding the maintenance and continued development of the National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System. The Committee makes recommendations to the Agency of the level of funding required to maintain a viable urban search and rescue capability, as well as on the allocation of budgetary resources to various System activities. The Committee also reviews and recommends approval of System documentation, unresolved legal issues, and other issues that require input of constituent organizations and subject matter experts.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The balance of membership within the US&R Advisory Committee provides for representation from the various levels of local, State, and Federal government, US&R task force sponsoring organizations, and professional associations. The many echelons of functional perspective provide professional insight from various points of view. Currently, the Advisory Committee Chair is the Director of Operations Planning, Response and Recovery Directorate within FEMA. The remaining members consist of: two sponsoring agency heads, two State emergency management agency representatives, one representative of the International Associations of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), one representative of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and a representative of the Nation's 27 Urban Search and Rescue Task Force Leaders.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Advisory Committee meets at least two times per year. This frequency allows for critical Committee input into budgetary and procurement actions. Additional meetings are scheduled as needed to address specific issues and review important System documentation. The meetings are necessary to maintain a national consensus on standard operating procedures, organizational structure, equipment levels, training, and exercise requirements.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The US&R Advisory Committee is made up of prominent figures in emergency management and practitioners in the urban search and rescue field. This presence of aggregate knowledge is unique to one of the newest disciplines in the search and rescue

field. As a result, the FEMA National US&R Response System has been building the only model, standards and criteria for conducting US&R on a national level. This expertise, of which only a small portion resides with the Federal government, requires a high degree of technical input that is provided by the US&R Advisory Committee. Input of subject matter experts that make up the Committee ensure the National US&R Response System maintains the highest level of readiness possible.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

N/A

21. Remarks

FEMA wishes to include the US&R Advisory Committee into the newly established National Advisory Committee. If NAC does not assume US&R responsibilities, we will request that the committee be re-established.

Designated Federal Officer

Robert Powers Acting Assistant Administrator for Disaster Operations Directorate

Narrative Description

The US&R program supports the DHS/FEMA mission primarily in preparing for and responding to disasters. It provides rapid, effective response, uses a wide range of state, local and federal capabilities, and provides timely and appropriate disaster assistance. Originally established and designed to provide highly trained personnel and specialized equipment to rescue victims of earthquakes and collapsed structures, US&R has evolved since 1989 to respond to earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, airplane crashes, gas and grain elevator explosions, large fires and the devastating terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center. The ability to operate in environments contaminated by hazardous materials and weapons of mass destruction reflects the latest enhancement to US&R capabilities.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety



Trust in government



Major policy changes



Advance in scientific research



Effective grant making



Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

Improvements to health and safety. Medical screening: Developed medical screening guidelines for annual, pre-deployment and post-deployment follow-ups for all System Members.· Effective grant making. Assisted FEMA as appropriations increased dramatically after 9/11 in recommending priorities for its preparedness and response cooperative agreements, including equipment cache lists, training development and delivery, and developing a canine training and evaluation system.· Improved service delivery. o Standardized the full equipment cache list, which will assure interoperability of equipment used by each Task Force, and will provide economies of scale in procurement of the equipment.o Developed the Type III light equipment cache list – a modular response for weather-related incidents (e.g., hurricanes).o Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) capability in structural collapses. Assumption that all collapsed structures may be contaminated. Preparations include personal protection equipment, WMD detection devices, decontamination equipment, other equipment to support US&R work in contaminated environments and developed training requirements.· Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements. With major assistance from the Legal Issues Working Group (LIWG), published the first proposed rule governing the US&R System in December 2002. In 2003, LIWG assisted FEMA OGC in responding to comments on the proposed rule and preparing the forthcoming Interim Final Rule. Provided critical input to development of the Maximum Pay Rate Table to apply to Affiliated Personnel and backfill for employees of for-profit Participating Agencies.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

30

Number of Recommendations Comments

NA

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

90%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

NA

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

7%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

NA

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The Section Chief communicates directly with the Advisory Committee and the Operations Working Group on a regular basis normally by teleconferences or email to discuss the status of the US&R program.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities



Reallocated resources



Issued new regulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

· Reorganized priorities. FEMA worked closely with the Committee and its Working Groups to adjust priorities in direct support of Task Force operations. These included funding for preparedness grants, ground transportation, canine training and evaluation, full scale Task Force/Incident Support Team exercises and development of those exercises, standardization of standard and Type III equipment caches, expanded warehousing for storage and maintenance of equipment, and development and delivery of training.

· Issued new regulations. Proposed regulations were published in December 2002, and Interim Final Regulations are in review within FEMA and DHS. This has been a multi-year process to get to this point, in which the Advisory Committee and its Legal Issues Working Group made (and continue to make) invaluable contributions.

· Approved grants or other payments. Previously discussed above, US&R received greatly increased appropriations during the last 2-year period. The advice and recommendations for priorities and allocations of the funds were a considerable benefit to FEMA and to the US&R program, ensuring that program met the highest priorities and greatest needs of the System Members.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

N/A